

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
APRIL 17, 2006

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room C of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

- Present: Blair, Clouette, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer
Absent: Haddad

Mr. Hawkins asked for a moment of silence to remember in our thoughts members of our extended family, Jim and Karen Foley, who tragically lost their son this week

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

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III. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Recreation

Discussion continued on the Issue Paper regarding the Recreation Department. Curt Vincente, Recreation Director, discussed with the Town Council the current session structure, the non-revenue producing space in the Community Center and the Adult Education Program.

2. Town-wide

Matt Hart, Acting Town Manager, noted that the medical insurance payments have increased in the last few months.

3. Public Safety

Mr. Hart commented on a new fulltime position in the Police Department. Late in the next fiscal year money is budgeted for an officer who will assist with the implementation of a number of community policing initiatives. Mr. Schaefer requested that the Town Gown and Quality of Life Committees review these programs in order not to duplicate efforts and to look at the progress.

Mr. Hawkins requested that the term, "constable," be changed to Police Officer and that the words, "public safety success," be toned down. (Page 102)

Ms. Redding asked that staff identify the cost of the position for a full year in order to evaluate the overall fiscal impact of the position.

The Mayor recognized Noranne Nielsen, the Animal Control Officer, for her extremely well executed efforts in the recent animal emergency and thanked her for her work.

Mr. Clouette would like, for this year or starting next year, an accounting of the number of volunteers who work with the agency.

Mr. Hawkins requested flagging the certification of 4 shift officers to deputy fire marshal level noting the increased supervisor to officer ratio.

4. Revenues

Jeff Smith, Financial Director, noted that revenues have been adjusted to reflect the Appropriation Committees latest figures. Mr. Paulhus commented that the Region 19 numbers do not incorporate the cuts that were recently made. Mr. Smith reported that the transportation grant is subject to a cap and will make the necessary changes to show this.

5. Operating Transfers

6. Debt Service

Ms. Koehn requested that the wording, "This assumes no additional debt will be authorized," be changed to something like, "Based on debt already incurred..." or "*Barring* additional expenditures..."

7. Internal Service Funds

Mr. Hawkins requested the flagging of two initiatives in the Fire Marshall's Budget and the Fire Chief's budget that call for the training and the creation of 4 supervisory positions in the career sector of the fire department and, consequently, 4 additional deputy fire marshals. His concerns are that this proposed change would alter the supervisory load of the Fire Chief, discourage volunteers from retaining or attaining certification and decrease the ratio between supervisors and those they supervise. After some discussion it was pointed out that this is one of the items the staff proposed for elimination in this year's budget so there will be ample time to examine the issues.

Mr. Hart distributed a memo, "Suggested Adjustments to Proposed 2006/07 Budget", for review at the next meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Blair moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Motion so passed.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk